

MPO RESOLUTION #43-05

RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO FUND THE UNFUNDED PORTION OF THE PORT OF MIAMI TUNNEL PROJECT AND TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP THE ACCESS NEEDS OF THE PORT, INCLUDING RAIL ACCESS AND OTHER ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS; AND TO COMMISSION AN INDEPENDENT, OBJECTIVE STUDY, FUNDED BY MPO FUNDS FOR STUDIES, ON THE VIABILITY AND COST OF RAIL ACCESS FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI TO THE PORT OF MIAMI, EITHER VIA SURFACE OR TUNNEL

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement creating and establishing the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Miami Urbanized Area requires that the MPO provide a structure to evaluate the adequacy of the transportation planning and programming process, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is the second largest economic generator that pumps \$12 billion annually into Miami-Dade's economy, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami provides more than 90,000 jobs directly or indirectly, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is the world's largest passenger cruise terminal, and

WHEREAS, the port attracts and generates approximately 2,700 daily truck trips to serve the cargo terminals, in addition to thousands of other vehicles that access the port also on a daily basis, and

WHEREAS, one cruise ship can create traffic to serve 8,000-10,000 people, including arriving and departing passengers, crew, commercial vehicle drivers, ship provisioners, delivery personnel shore labor, federal inspectors, and friends and families picking up and dropping off vacationers, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami has only one surface access which restricts the competitive advantage of the facility and makes it more vulnerable to traffic tie-ups, and

WHEREAS, strong competition from other seaports promising greater accessibility than is presently available in Miami will eventually lure jobs away, and

WHEREAS, the limited access in and out of the Port of Miami causes hundreds of freight-laden 18-wheelers and cruise line buses onto the streets of downtown Miami, and

WHEREAS, residents of Overtown and Park West along with other property interests have been trying to relieve their streets of that burdensome traffic congestions, and

WHEREAS, major redevelopment and growth is currently underway for the Downtown Miami area, and will add to the already congested streets, and

WHEREAS, the MPO Governing Board has repeatedly approved the inclusion of the Port Tunnel project in the Miami-Dade Long Range Transportation Plan, and

WHEREAS, studies and engineering plans have been completed to further the tunnel project over the last several years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE MIAMI URBANIZED AREA:

SECTION 1. That this Board directs staff to develop a plan to fund the unfunded portion of the Port of Miami tunnel project and to identify additional improvements to help the access needs of the port, including rail access and other access improvements.

Section 2. That this Board directs staff to hire an independent, objective consultant, to be paid for by the MPO funds for studies, to study the viability and cost of rail access from the City of Miami to the Port of Miami, either via surface or tunnel.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Johnny L. Winton who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Chairman Joe A. Martinez, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Joe A. Martinez-Aye
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Moss-Absent

Board Member Ruben D. Almaguer	-Aye	Board Member William H. Kerdyk	-Absent
Board Member Bruno A. Barreiro	-Aye	Board Member Raul L. Martinez	-Absent
Board Member Kevin A. Burns	-Aye	Board Member Dorrin Rolle	-Aye
Board Member Barbara M. Carey-Shuler	-Absent	Board Member Natacha Seijas	-Absent
Board Member Jose "Pepe" Diaz	-Absent	Board Member Darryl K. Sharpton	-Aye
Board Member Shirley M. Gibson	-Absent	Board Member Katy Sorenson	-Aye
Board Member Carlos A. Gimenez	-Aye	Board Member Rebeca Sosa	-Absent
Board Member Perla T. Hantman	-Aye	Board Member Javier D. Souto	-Aye
Board Member Sally A. Heyman	-Absent	Board Member Richard Steinberg	-Aye
Board Member Barbara J. Jordan	-Absent	Board Member Johnny L. Winton	-Aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and approved this 20th day of October, 2005

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
M.P.O.

By

Jose-Luis Mesa
MPO Secretariat

